

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Wei (U.S. Patent No. 5,292,624). Claims 29 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-12 and 29-30 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter, but respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 9-12.

In order to properly anticipate Applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every element of the claim in issue must be found, "either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim. Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)." See M.P.E.P. § 2131, 8th ed., Rev. of May 2004.

Wei does not teach each and every element of rejected claims 9-12. In particular, independent claim 9 recites, inter alia, "applying a dispersion of the powder in a solvent onto a region including the trench; and precipitating the powder in the dispersion within the trench to bury the trench with the precipitated powder." The Examiner alleged that structures 22 and 28 of Wei are formed by the claimed process. Office Action at 2. Applicants disagree.

Referring to Wei, "the first metallurgy pattern 22 is provided by screening a blanket layer of etchable conductive metal paste . . . In general, the thick film paste[,

i.e., the conductive paste,] may be composed of gold, copper, silver or other highly [conductive] powders; glass frit and/or metal oxides; and suitable non-volatile materials The blanket layer of paste is [] dried The dried layer is then fired A layer of photoresist is deposited on the blanket layer of paste, and . . . exposed to define pattern 22. The photoresist is then developed to leave portions over the desired pattern, and the exposed areas of paste etched away with a suitable etchant.” Wei, col. 2, l. 67 - col. 3, l. 11, col. 3, ll. 37-48, and Fig. 2. Moreover, “vias 28 [are formed] preferably with the same paste used to form pattern 22. The vias [28] are preferably filled by squeezing the paste in the via openings. The paste is then dried and fired as previously described with pattern 22.” Wei, col. 4, ll. 8-12.

In forming pattern 22 and vias 28, Wei uses a metal paste, instead of a dispersion of powder in a solvent. Also, Wei teaches drying and firing the metal paste, rather than precipitating a powder, to form pattern 22 and vias 28. Therefore, Wei fails to teach at least “applying a dispersion of the powder in a solvent onto a region including the trench; and precipitating the powder in the dispersion within the trench to bury the trench with the precipitated powder,” as recited in independent claim 9. Thus, independent claim 9 is allowable over Wei.

Claims 10-12 and 29-30 depend from claim 9 and are also allowable at least because of their dependence from an allowable base claim.


In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of pending claims 9-12 and 29-30.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 3, 2005

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